

THE EARTH MAY BE UPSET BY A CONJUNCTION OF PLANETS.

Old World to Suffer More Than the New Say the All-Wise Astrologers.

According to astrologers this old world of ours is entering upon a period of great stress and danger which is to culminate in terrible disasters, fatal perhaps to its very existence, by the end of the year.

We have, they say, already been experiencing the approach of these evil days—bad weather, fires, marine disasters, battles and murders, all being attributed to the malign influences of the planets—but from now on until December, when the sun, the moon and all the planets, with the exception of Neptune, will form such a conjunction in the heavens as has not occurred for 6,000 years. Their relations to each other and the signs in which they are grouped indicate, according to astrology, that their combined power will be exerted with baleful effect upon the earth.

As to the precise and definite form which the disaster will take, those who believe that the fates of men are written in the heavens differ widely among themselves. Some insist that the portent is for floods, earthquakes or other great physical disturbances; others read the omen for epidemics

One of the men who take a depressing view of the prospect ahead, as revealed by astrology, is Dr. J. C. Street, who confirms his opinions by crystal readings and by the words of East Indian soothsayers. The latter part of this year, he contends, will be the most momentous period in English history, the most important, indeed, since the fall of Babylon.

According to Dr. Street, the seven planets with the sun coming into the mystic sign of Sagittarius in the latter part of November, and continuing through December, is a "prophetic sign of fiery triplicity," which will affect the whole system of governments, religions, political and financial economy, as well as the motor nerve system in individuals. He does not believe that the effect will be so marked here as in Eastern lands, yet it will be sufficiently grave to warrant the utmost apprehension and precaution.

What Astronomers Say.

Although not sympathizing with the astrologers and other occult believers in their prophecy that the position and movements of the planets portend

In addition to this unusual appearance of so many of the planets in the same quarter of the heavens, there are to be many eclipses, conjunctions, comets and other phenomena of peculiar interest to the astronomer. H. C. Wilson, in "Popular Astronomy," announces five eclipses of the sun and two of the moon for 1899. A total eclipse of the moon, June 22-23, will be visible in the western part of North America, throughout the Pacific ocean, in Asia and in Eastern Africa.

An annular eclipse of the sun will take place December 2, but will be visible only in the vicinity of the South Pole.

On December 16 there will be a partial eclipse of the moon, which can be seen in the eastern part of North America, in Europe and in Asia.

One hundred and nine occultations of stars will be visible at Washington, and most of them throughout the United States.

In November the great Leonid shower of meteors is expected to approximate the wonderful showers of 1833 and 1866.

Although Professor Rees and many other scientists will not admit that

lowing commentary on the astronomical and astrological aspects for the current year:

"That the conjunctions and other interrelations of the heavenly bodies affect affairs upon our globe, yea, and directly govern them, is a positive fact and this is the basis of the universal science of etiology—that of normal health, via light and its co-relations."

"Already a great many have perhaps confused this coming galaxy of conjunctions with the celebrated Magian oracle as to the final conflagration. We think, however, they are mistaken, as the combinations now due take place neither in Cancer nor in Capricorn, but in Sagittarius, i. e., the Sign, and thus the predicted one is still future. The fact, however, remains that the coming concert in the heavens is a part of one tremendous whole, and of one that in its entirety does not recur in thousands of years. The ordinary astrologers, so called, are therefore safe in predicting that 'this conjunction will mark an epoch—the beginning of a new cycle.' Their prognostications coincide with the prophecies and with chronology, yea, and with the legitimate expectations of physical astronomy. It is certainly a remarkable thing for seven planets to be found in one Sign at once, as, for instance, upon December 2, while Jupiter, the 8th, is within 5 degrees of the same Sign."

THE FIRST TO FIRE.

FIRST OF DEWEY'S FLEET TO RETURN.

New Details of the Gallant Part the Raleigh Took—Other Ships' Crews Thought Her Doomed at One Time.

(Special Letter.)

It seems strangely appropriate that the ship that fired the first shot in the battle of Manila should be the first one of Admiral Dewey's victorious fleet to return to the United States. The Raleigh, Capt. Joseph B. Coghlan, not only opened the battle on that famous May 1, but was in the thick of the fight throughout.

The Raleigh was steaming along third in the line when the Spanish squadron was sighted in the little Bay of Cavite. One of her five-inch guns returned a ready response to the Spaniard's tardy salutation. Another shot came from the Spanish shore batteries, and as the Americans were on a sharp lookout for the fleet, the Concord placed a six-inch shell so close to the spot whence the enemy had fired that it killed several of their gunners. Our cruisers were in the following order



CAPT. COGHLAN.

when the Spanish squadron was sighted: The Olympia, flagship; the Baltimore, the Petrel, the Concord, and the Hoston. They had passed to the northwest of Manila and were holding to the south.

The Spanish squadron was inferior to the attacking fleet, but its position, under the protection of shore batteries, gave it an equalizing strength. It is estimated by all experts that one gun mounted on shore is worth several aboard ship. The shore gun has a fixed platform and is, therefore, able to fire with much greater accuracy. On the third turn in the famous fight the Raleigh was caught in a strong lashing current and was carried very close to the bows of the Spanish cruisers. The officers of the other American ships expected to see the Raleigh go to the bottom. The enemy's ships seemed paralyzed. The Raleigh sat in two raking fires before she steamed back into place. It was on the third turn, too, that the great duel between the flagships took place. When the American ships withdrew after the first round, so that the men might have an opportunity to rest and eat breakfast, Capt. Coghlan reported to Commodore Dewey: "Out of the jaws of death, out of the gates of hell, and only a little smoky from the trip." In the second round, when the Baltimore headed for the Christina and Austria, the Olympia and Raleigh followed her closely. The Christina destroyed, attention was turned to the Austria. A shell from the Raleigh struck the Spaniard's magazine and exploded it. So terrific was the explosion that the flying fragments of the cruiser tore away all the upper works of the gunboat El Correo, which lay beside her.

The fleet disposed of the American vessels next turned their attention to the batteries. There were some good gunners in the Hitorios battery. One of their shells smashed a whaleboat of the Raleigh. It was not until the Raleigh sailed in to about 1,000 yards and had killed six gunners that the battery was silenced.

The Baltimore and the Raleigh the day after the big fight went down the bay and destroyed six batteries at the entrance. The Spanish garrison had seen enough of American marksmanship the day before and took care to keep out of the way.

The Raleigh, a sister of the Cincinnati, was launched at Norfolk in 1892. She is a steel cruiser of the second class, with twin screws and two schooner rigged masts, with military tops. She is 300 feet long, 42 feet beam, 18 feet draught, and has a tonnage of 2,183. Her speed is 19 knots. She carries vertical four cylinder triple expansion engines and four double-ended and two single-ended boilers. Her deck is protected with armor from one to two and one-half inches thick, and she carries a cellulose belt. The armor on her conning tower is two inches thick, and she has two inches of steel in her sponsons. She carries one 6-inch rapid-fire gun on her forecabin, ten 5-inch rapid-fire guns—two in the poop and four on each side of the gun deck, in sponsons—eight 6-pound and four 1-pound rapid-fire guns, two gatling machine guns and six torpedo tubes. Her crew numbers 295.

Tobacco Used by the Astors.

Tobacco is a native of Mexico and was used by the Aztecs, who smoked it in amber tubes long before the arrival of the Spaniards. The best tobacco comes from the states of Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan, Guerrero and the southern part of Tamaulipas. The average yield per acre is from 2,500 to 4,000 pounds.

ROMAN WOMEN.

Faces Cold, Hard, Stretched and Impassable as Canons.

The faces of Roman women of the upper classes are cold, hard, finished and impenetrable as canons, says Harper's Magazine. In a face which is at all beautiful you will not find a line which is not perfect, and this elegance and sureness of line goes with that complexion which is the finest of all complexions, pure ivory, and which carries with it the promise of a temperament in which there is all the subtlety of fire. The distinction between the properly aristocratic and the strictly plebeian face is, I think, less marked in Rome than in any city. Almost all Roman women have regular faces, the profile clearly cut and in a straight line; black hair, often with deep tones of blue in it, and sometimes curling crisply; dark eyes, often of a fine uniform brown, large, steady, profound, with that unmeaning profundity which means race, and which one sees in the Jewess, the gypsy. They have a truly Roman dignity, and beneath that the true fire, without which dignity is but the comely shroud of a corpse, and though there is not a trace in them of the soft, smiling, catlike air of the women of Venice, and not much of the vivid, hardy, unassuming provocation of the women of Naples, they are content to let you see in them that reasonable nearness to the animal which no Italian woman is ashamed to acknowledge. They have often a certain massiveness of build, which makes a child look like a young woman and a young woman like a matron; but, for Italians, they are tall, and though one sees none of the trim Neapolitan waists, it is but rarely that one sees, even among the market women bringing in their baskets on their heads, those square and lumpy figures which roll so comfortably through Venice.

AMERICANS ABROAD.

Some of the Amusing Experiences That They Have Met.

A writer in What to Eat gives some amusing experiences of travelers abroad. One man had quite a time with a official in Russia because that individual could not be made to understand Minneapolis was the name of a town. He insisted it was woman's name and should be written Minnie A. Polis and then wanted to know whether she was madame or mademoiselle. In Turkey a man registered from Stennessles, and every one there took him to be an Indian chief doing the grand tour. His name was Barnes, so once he registered as Mr. Barnes of New York. A Hungarian magnate who had read the novel by that name insisted on taking him to his manor and entertaining him royally for a month. A cynic tried registering as plain John Smith at European hotels. He got a cold, dark room at the top of the house. At the next place he prefixed judge to his name and was given better quarters. At the next he registered as "Hon." and came down a floor; presently he was "major" and got a bathroom attached to his next quarters. As he moved from place to place he increased his importance. As "colonel" he was given a good room on the first floor and when he registered as "general" he was given the best suite in the house at a discount.

AN INTREPID RIDER.

Mr. Spong of Rochester, England, was one day riding down the High street at Brompton, when his horse took fright and dashed away at a frightful pace. Tearing through the arch at Brompton barracks, it continued on its mad career in the direction of the iron fence at the other side of the barrack yard, beyond which was a fall of forty-two feet. It was while crossing the yard that Mr. Spong arrived at a full sense of his fearful position; the dwarf-like appearance of a large tree beyond the iron rails indicated the great depth. The animal presently arrived at the five-foot fence, which it at once took, and horse and rider disappeared, the animal carrying away some seventeen or eighteen of the iron bars into the chasm below. Fortunately a flight of steps

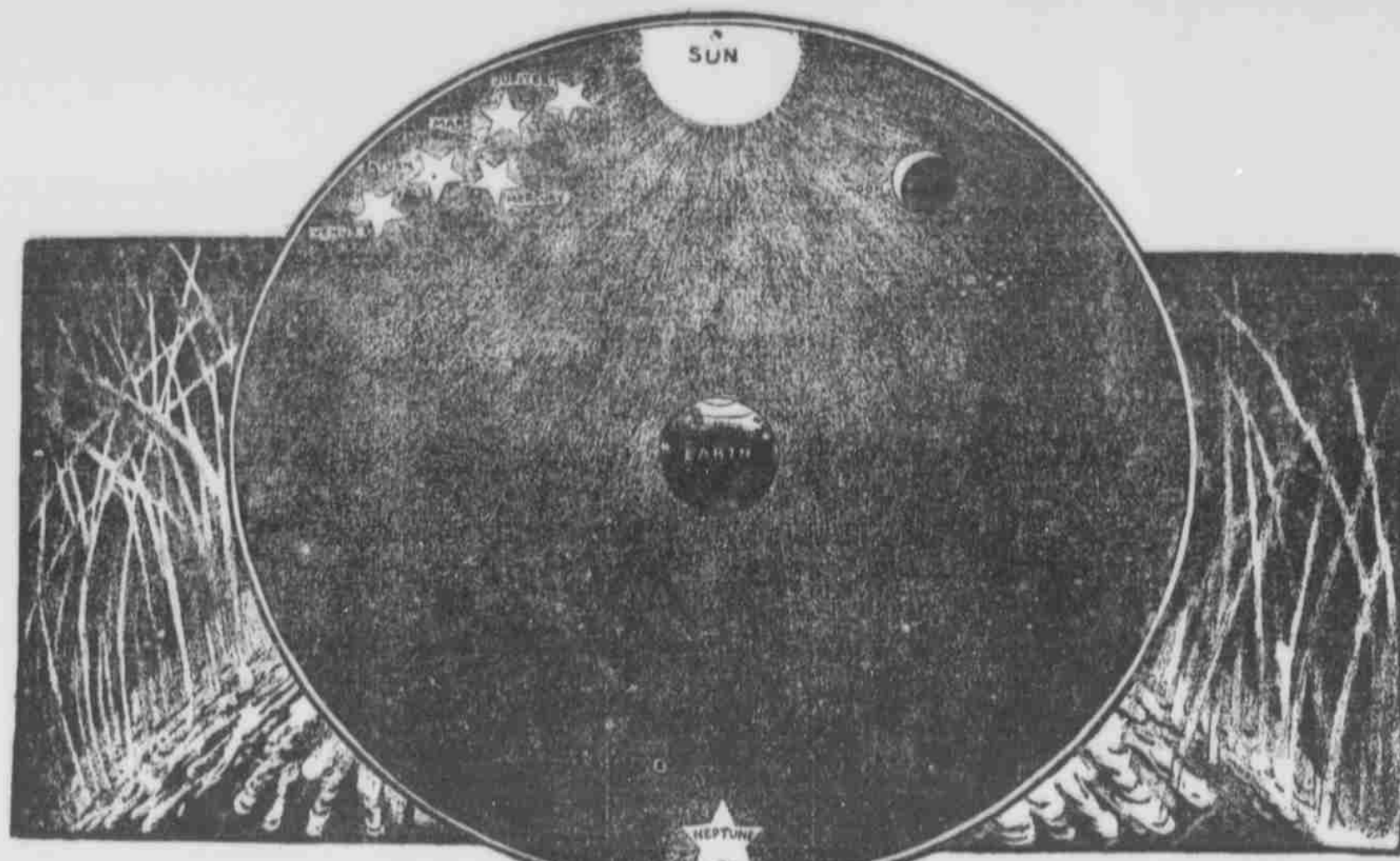


SPONG'S LEAP.

intercepted the fall, and on these the horse alighted after falling a distance of seventeen feet. The distance from the spot where the horse took his leap to the spot he arrived on below was thirty-six feet. Singularly enough, neither horse nor rider was seriously hurt. Mr. Spong, who stuck to his saddle all the time, afterwards rode the animal home.

It Cuts Off Hostilities.

"Well, Mickey, de war wid Spain come to an end Chewaday." "Is dat so? Well, I'm mighty sorry to hear it." "What fer?" "Why, dere's a Spanish eightmaker on our street dat I've been trying to git me han's on fer de las' two mont's."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



HOW THE PLANETS WILL BE GROUPED IN DECEMBER NEXT.

and plagues, and another class lay the emphasis on social, political and industrial upheavals and revolutions. All agree, however, that the extent of the evils will be world-wide, and now and then one ventures to predict that there will be no world at the end of these dreiful days, or at least not in its present form and condition. It is a strange coincidence that prophets and seers in France are also predicting the coming of Antichrist and a reign of terror and blood for the closing months of this year and century.

English astrologers have been most active in studying the phenomena connected with this remarkable movement and position of heavenly bodies, and they have sent out their warning to other lands.

Zadkiel places the beginning of a serious trouble on June 8, which is the date of a lunar eclipse. He sees war ahead, and is of the opinion that nothing short of a miracle can prevent England from being drawn into it. In the late fall there are to be great conflagrations, and although the United States will suffer from these and other ills, he thinks it will be less afflicted than other parts of the world and will have to help feed the suffering and the dying in less favored lands.

Raphael agrees with his fellow astrologer in warning all people to beware of fire, especially in the fall, also of railway disasters. The summer, too, according to this prophet, is to witness strikes and serious labor troubles of many kinds, and of vast extent. He sees trouble ahead for President McKinley, and predicts that both his health and his popularity will suffer.

Orion, another English astrologer, adds a note of warning to speculators. "Look out for tremendous fluctuations in stocks and for panics," he says.

Anarchy also is to afflict France, Italy and other parts of Europe, and there are signs that the life of one of the European rulers is in danger.

In this country believers in astrology are beginning to emphasize the appalling outlook as shown in their forecasts for the coming months. Every Sunday night one set of devotees meet for a lecture and study, and on Monday night another little group comes together. A veritable chamber of horrors is revealed on these occasions to those whose imaginations can grasp the situation as depicted by the leaders and lecturers.

various calamities and great physical and political revolutions for the latter end of 1899, the astronomers recognize this period as one of uncommon importance, offering opportunities for observation which will be of material advantage to science. Professor John Krom Rees of Columbia University says:

"The grouping of all the planets, with the exception of Neptune, in one part of the heavens, which will occur in December, is an extraordinarily interesting condition and will engage the closer study and observation on the part of astronomers everywhere. Popular interest will be increased by the fact that the phenomena may be viewed at ordinary hours—after sunset—and will not entail the vigils which the astronomer so often is compelled to keep.

"As for the effect upon the life of the earth, there will be none, except that astronomers who expose themselves in the pursuit of their profession may take pneumonia. We do not recognize that the heavenly bodies have any effect upon meteorological conditions. There is no proof for it."

there is a direct connection between meteorological or other disturbances on or near the earth's surface and those observed in the solar system, there is a strong feeling among many other reputable astronomers that some such relation does exist, and that in time it will be discovered and reduced to a scientific law.

Another problem that is vexing the astronomer is that the law of gravitation, so called, is not a fixed and absolute law. It works within limits and under certain conditions, but at the best it can be claimed, in the light of a wider range of experience, that it is "only an approximation to a complete and perfect statement." Astronomy has an important work to do in rectifying and perfecting this "law."

One of the hindrances to the development of the science is the disagreement of observers in regard to many vital points. The looked-for improvement of methods and instruments will serve to lessen this.

Professor C. A. J. Totten of Yale University, under the title of "Matter for the Magi," has published the fol-

TAUGHT BY BITTER EXPERIENCE.



Miss Jones (who has offered to hear Mr. Green his part for the coming theatricals)—Now, what's your cue, Mr. Green?

Mr. Green (bewildered)—My cue?

Miss J.—Yes, your cue—what they say just before you make your entrance, you know.

Mr. G.—Oh, I see. They always say, "Come on, you silly ass, can't you?"

RORIQUE BROTHERS.

Condemned to Death for Piracy Is Another Case of Injustice.

Paris Cable New York Times: A case which seems to be quite as deserving of revision as the Dreyfus case is that of the survivor of the famous brothers Rorique, who were condemned to death eight years ago for piracy and murder on the high seas. These two men had had a most adventurous and, in many respects, heroic career. They had explored strange lands and saved countless lives. One of them, indeed, Leonce, who has died in penal servitude, managed to save the life of a fellow-convict at Cayenne, and it was with manacles upon his feet that he plunged into the sea to perform this worthy deed. The commutation of their death sentence was entirely due to public opinion, for the brothers had been condemned by the Marine Tribunal at Brest on the sole evidence of a dishonest Malay cook—a sea cook in the worst acceptance of the word. Deliber thought that he was sure of his prey, and gloated over the prospects of guillotining two young men of such splendid physique as were the brothers Rorique. He was doomed, however, to disappointment. The two convicts received the benefit of the doubt which most people felt as to their guilt. From that moment until his recent death, their old mother, a Belgian named de Graft, moved heaven and earth to establish the innocence of her two stalwart sons, but in vain. Efforts of this kind require a large capital to make them successful. Both M. Carnot and M. Felix Faure were deaf to the arguments which she put forward, and in which, by the way, she was assisted by the leading members of the Brussels bar. One of the brothers has, as I have said, since died, and the other has long ago given up all hope of obtaining justice, but M. Loubet has now signaled his acceptance of the presidential office by ordering the whole dossier of the case to be sent to him, and I shall be very much surprised if this act is not followed by the surviving Rorique's release.

Cost Miss Employees.

About 1,500,000 persons are employed in the coal mines of the world.